

## NEW ASSISTANT PLANNER — WELCOME BRIAN

In December 2004, Brian Froelich joined the Planning Department as the new Assistant Planner. Brian received his B.S. degree in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo.



Brian Froelich Assistant Planner

After being on the job for the past 2 months, Brian says that he is really enjoying the transition from his previous job in the City of Belmont's Planning Department - where he was employed as the Zoning Technician. In that position he achieved what he regards as a fairly important improvement in service. "I was able to improve the overall efficiency of the Business Licensing process by streamlining the methods used." In Belmont, he regularly presented proposals to the Planning Commission and worked the public counter daily.

Even though he is new to the LAH Planning Department, he was pleased to effectively handle the recent renewal of the Westwind Barn Conditional Use Permit. That project provided an opportunity to learn the history of a unique Town asset and to hone his presentation skills before our Planning Commission. Brian states, "The Planning Commission is very receptive to staff input and are very intelligent as a group. They understand how delicate this process can be and understand that their decisions have farther reaching effects than the project at hand."

"The one-acre lots require a different knowledge base and skill set compared to working on a typical 6,000 square foot lot in Belmont," says Brian. "I enjoy working in an environment where the residents are treated and respected as individuals. Likewise the residents have a voice in the kind of government that they want and are not reluctant to speak out."

Brian is enjoying the camaraderie of working in LAH. "Co-workers were very friendly to the new kid on the block," states Brian. "It's a tight group. It only took a few days before I felt right at home and the Holiday season is a great time to start a new job."

In his spare time he enjoys fishing, golf and working out at the gym. As to his future goals, Brian hopes to buy a home and complete his Masters in Public Administration before he and his wife, Ally Froelich start a family.

Los Altos Hills is very fortunate to attract highly motivated and quality applicants to vacant positions.

Welcome aboard, Brian!

## LAH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

### WEED & BRUSH ABATEMENT DEADLINE APRIL 30, 2005

The Board of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District directed the County Fire Marshal to notice certain properties about the need to comply with the Hazardous Vegetation Management Program.



The goal is voluntary compliance with the Minimum Fire Safety Standards. It is the objective to ensure that all properties are safe from fire at all times during the year.

Property owners can perform the work in accord with Minimum Fire Safety Standards prior to the abatement deadline of April 30, 2005 or the County will perform an inspection to determine whether the property has been cleared in accordance with the Standards.

After the inspection, the County will order any and all necessary abatement work, and have that work completed by a County Contractor. The costs will be included as a special assessment on the property tax bill following confirmation of the charges by the jurisdiction.

If you have any questions about your property or need on-site advice to help you achieve compliance with the Minimum Fire Standards, please call the Santa Clara County Hazardous Vegetation Management Program at (408) 282-3145.

## FALLEN FIRE FIGHTER WORKED IN LAH

On Sunday, February 13, 2005 Captain Mark McCormack died at the scene of a house fire in Los Gatos. A 12,000-volt power line that had fallen between trees and struck his arm as he led his team to fight the fire tragically electrocuted him. This was the first death of a firefighter for the Santa Clara County Fire Department since it's founding 58 years ago.



Captain McCormack was just promoted to Captain. As the junior Captain on his shift he rotated to stations in each community when the assigned Captains were on vacation or sick. Last summer he worked many days on the wild land patrol unit in Los Altos Hills as a Firefighter-Paramedic.

Fire Captain Mark McCormack was 36 years old. He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Heather McCormack. A memorial service was held on February 19, 2005 to celebrate his life and service to the community.

## UNDERGROUNDING PILOT PROJECTS APPROVED!

The Undergrounding Committee is pleased to report that in December two pilot projects were approved, and the kickoff meeting between the Town and the Utilities is scheduled for early March. The two routes chosen are:



Wires at corner of Viscaino & Purissima Rd.

1.) Approximately 2000' of lines on Purissima Road along the Town's baseball fields; 2.) Approximately 1000' of lines on Altamont Road along Byrne Preserve.

These projects take quite a bit of time; possibly a few years. But as you pass these areas in the coming months, take a good look at the listing poles, criss-crossed wires and cable bundles: their days are now numbered.

The Town has engaged Mark Thomas & Co., a local firm experienced with this type of undergrounding project, to help coordinate with the utilities and manage the projects. Their fees, like nearly all the costs of the pilot projects, will be paid from the Program 20A funds set aside by the Utilities for undergrounding.

If you have any questions about the project, feel free to contact Town engineer David Ross or anyone on the Undergrounding Committee.

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE (EIC)

The Town is seeking Volunteers who have a background and interest in the newest energy and water conservation technologies and an interest in the developing strategies for implementing the Town's 5-year strategic conservation goals.



The scope of the Committee is both to help the City Council refine and implement Town Government conservation goals and to consider appropriate conservation goals for residential construction. The new EIC Committee is charged with assisting the City Council in efforts to reduce Town Government's electrical use by 50%, water use by 30% and non-renewable transportation fuel use by 25%. The program includes contractors supplying services to the Town and applies to all Town owned property and operations. Improvements are measured against a 2003 base year.

Applicants who are involved with the construction industry and scientific application of new technologies are encouraged to apply. Knowledge of solar, alternative energy technology is a plus, but the council is also seeking members who have recently built or remodeled a home in Town, especially those (homes) over 7,000 sq. ft. Applications can be obtained from the website, or at Town Hall. Call City Clerk at 650-941-7222.

## THE 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CITY OF LOS ALTOS/TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS JOINT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS DECEMBER 3, 2004



Los Altos Hills recipients of the award were Volunteers Elaine Nelson, for her founding of the Supporters of Westwind Community Barn and John Harpootlian, for his chairmanship of Town Information Technology Committee, volunteer work on the Land Utilization Committee and for videotaping of the city council meetings.



## Creating a Legacy Is Only a Few Brush Strokes Away IS YOUR FAMILY ON THE DONOR WALL?

Designing and making a ceramic tile is a lot of fun - make it a family or neighborhood art project. Design assistance is also available from the experts at Petroglyph, the ceramic studio that will glaze and fire each of the tiles. Sample tiles will be available for review. Design guidelines and restrictions are available on the Town's Website [www.losaltoshill.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshill.ca.gov). Residents are encouraged to design their own tiles — make it a fun family art project, or receive design assistance from Petroglyph, the ceramic studio that will glaze and fire each of the tiles. Three template tiles are available for residents who do not want to design their own tile. Call for information.



Residents can visit the Petroglyph studio in Los Gatos. (Design guidelines and restrictions are available on the Town's Website.) Petroglyph is located at 37 N. Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos. Phone: (408) 395-6278. Deadline for completed tiles is March 18, 2005.

For further information, please contact Duffy Price at (650) 948-0596 or by email at [duffy@duffysmail.com](mailto:duffy@duffysmail.com). Or please stop by Town Hall at 25890 Fremont Road (temporary site at Bullis School).

